

**REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the subject application are respectfully requested in light of the amendments above and the comments which follow.

As correctly noted in the Office Action Summary, claims 1-6, 8, 9 and 11-37 were pending. By the present response, claims 3, 11, 13-18, 21-22, 24, 27, 29 and 32 have been amended and claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 19 and 20 canceled. Thus, upon entry of the present response, claims 3-6, 11-18 and 21-37 remain pending and await further consideration on the merits.

Support for the foregoing amendments can be found, for example, in at least the following locations in the original disclosure: the original claims and the drawing figures.

Entry of the foregoing is appropriate pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116 for at least the following reasons. First, the amendments address the new grounds of rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, thereby reducing the number of issues present upon appeal. Second, the amendments raise no new issues that would necessitate further search and/or substantive reexamination. Third, the amendments clearly overcome the grounds of rejection.

Also accompanied herewith are clerical corrections to the specification and drawings, along with new formal drawings incorporating any corrections.

***ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER***

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 11, 12, 14 and 37 are indicated as allowed. Applicant also notes with appreciation the indication that claims 13 and

15-17 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims and claims 5, 20, 22 and 23 contain allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form, as noted in paragraphs 32 and 33 of the Official Action. By the present response, independent claim 3 now contains the subject matter of allowable claim 5 and independent claim 18 now contains the subject matter of allowable claim 20 and intervening claim 19. Thus, as all independent claims, i.e., claims 3, 11, 18 and 37, are in allowable form, it is respectfully asserted that all pending claims, i.e., 3-6, 11-18 and 21-37, are allowable.

#### ***CLAIM OBJECTIONS***

Claims 11, 13, 21, 22, 24, 29 and 32 are objected to because of informalities. Each of these claims has been amended to address the objection. With respect to claim 32, the Applicant notes that the use of "effective" language is appropriate in view of enabling disclosure (see MPEP §2173.05(c)(III)). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

#### ***CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112***

Claims 13, 15-17 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the reasons outlined at paragraphs 3-7 of the Official Action. Claims 13, 15-17 and 26-28 have been amended to address the concerns of the Examiner. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102 AND §103**

Claims 1, 3, 18, 19, 21 and 31-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,094,170 to Raynaud et al. (hereafter "*Raynaud et al.*") on the grounds set forth in paragraph 9 of the Official Action.

Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 24, 25 and 27-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Raynaud et al.* on the grounds set forth in paragraph 20 of the Official Action. Because of the foregoing amendments by which each independent claim now incorporates features of an allowable claim, these rejections are moot and should be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that any issues remain, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted so that any such issues may be adequately addressed and prosecution of the instant application expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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